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Summary record of the 20th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 24 October 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Nipomici (Vice-Chair) ..... (Republic of Moldova)

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16-18421 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.2 and L.4)

Draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/C.2/71/L.2)

1. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was a roll-over from the 2015 resolution and reflected the concern expressed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/217) regarding the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the subject.

Draft resolution on combating sand and dust storms (A/C.2/71/L.4)

2. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that dust and sand storms posed serious challenges to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions; the draft resolution underscored the need to promptly undertake measures to address those challenges at the regional and international level.

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.12, A/C.2/71/L.19)

Draft resolution on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 (A/C.2/71/L.12)

3. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Brunei Darussalam, San Marino and Trinidad and Tobago, said that the proposal for a new International Decade of Action under the motto "Water for Sustainable Development" had been made by the President of Tajikistan in 2015 and was intended to strengthen and enhance the progress made during the "Water for Life" Decade and create a solid platform for the consolidation of efforts aimed at furthering sustainable management of water resources in the post-2015 period.

Draft resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/71/L.19)

4. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was important to recognize that the purpose of the draft resolution was not meant to detract from the primacy of the 2030 Agenda, but instead to focus on the complementary work being done in pursuit of the broader objective of sustainable development as a whole. The draft resolution sought to address some of the gaps in aligning the work of the General Assembly and the 2030 Agenda, in particular in the area of sustainable consumption and production, and explore ways in which the issue could be integrated into the work of the General Assembly in a way which complemented and enhanced the work already being done.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.6 and L.14)

Draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/71/L.6)

5. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group recognized that an integrated management approach involving all relevant stakeholders provided the best option for protecting the Caribbean Sea, the most valuable shared resource of many Caribbean Member States.

Draft resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/71/L.14)

6. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Samoa Pathway was the blueprint for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Crucially, the draft resolution called for the convening of a two-day high-level review of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by the General Assembly in September 2019.

(c) Disaster risk reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.9 and L.13)

Draft resolution on disaster risk reduction (A/C.2/71/L.9)

7. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution sought to ensure the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Particular focus was placed on target (e), given the shorter time frame, with a view to achieving a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

Draft resolution on an effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon (A/C.2/71/L.13)

8. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the 2015-2016 El Niño phenomenon had been the third strongest on record and had affected more than 60 million people, particularly in developing countries, impacting health, economy and food production, with particularly powerful impacts on those whose livelihoods depended on agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry. The draft resolution put great emphasis on the need to transcend the humanitarian assistance approach and adopt a multidisciplinary, development-based response involving the strengthening of national institutional capacities.

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.17)

Draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (A/C.2/71/L.17)

9. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the language of the draft resolution had been carefully crafted to ensure its adherence to previously agreed language in the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, General Assembly resolutions 70/226 and 70/303, and the report of the Secretary- General. The draft resolution featured a number of updates and included action-oriented and forward-looking elements.

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.10)

Draft resolution on implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/C.2/71/L.10)

10. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.10 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.7)

Draft resolution on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/C.2/71/L.7)

11. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution built on General Assembly resolution 70/207 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its seventy-first session, a report on progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation. It reflected the relevant recommendations in the report of the Secretary-

General (in document A/71/216) and was largely procedural in nature in order to avoid adding substantive new elements the might prejudge the outcome of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to be held in December 2016.

(g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.5)

Draft resolution on the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/C.2/71/L.5)

12. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was the second one since the United Nations Environment Assembly had come into being as a universal assembly of all Member States, and was the first to be considered since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Given that the United Nations Environment Programme made most of the major decisions in Nairobi, where meetings of the world's environment ministers were held, the draft resolution was essentially procedural. Paragraph 3 had been added with a view to enabling the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to provide a briefing to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017.

(h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.8)

Draft resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/C.2/71/L.8)

13. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.11)

Draft resolution on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (A/C.2/71/L.11)

14. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the 2030 Agenda set a historic, forward-looking and action-oriented framework for sustainable development which included access to sustainable energy as a Goal for the first time. The scope of the draft resolution had been expanded from previous years from mere "promotion of new and renewable sources of energy" to "ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all". While recognizing the link between energy and climate change, the draft resolution served as a placeholder for language pending the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. The draft resolution supported the improvement of existing mechanisms for follow-up and review by calling on the Secretary-General to make concrete proposals in his report on the implementation of the resolution. The distinction between that report and the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All should be maintained, with the former providing additional recommendations on the institutional framework for dialogue on sustainable energy and the latter reviewing progress, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Decade.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/71/89-E/2016/69, A/71/283, A/71/422 and A/71/539)

15. **Mr. Takdir** (Indonesia) said that people living in hunger and poverty could not be expected to focus on sustainable development if they were unable to meet their most basic needs. That underscored the need to end poverty and hunger and address barriers to food security such as land scarcity due to population increase, difficulties gaining access to financing, technology and information, uneven distribution of food production, climate change and international trade distortions. Increasing sustainable agricultural production should go hand in hand with increasing its resilience. It was vital to increase public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, especially for the benefit of local smallholders, to promote food security, improve nutritional outcomes and reduce inequality. Public stockholding should be considered with a view to maintaining food security in the context of global trade. Such a programme would make food available at government-regulated prices to support low-income or resource-poor producers.

16. To feed the 250 million people of Indonesia, his Government had created laws and policies highlighting food security, bearing in mind that maintaining domestic food availability and food sovereignty was in

the national interest. Indonesia's national development plan for 2015 to 2019 aimed at promoting sustainable production for key crops and livestock, stabilizing food prices and availability, increasing the quality and quantity of food consumed, mitigating food vulnerability and enhancing the welfare of food producers. His Government had also enacted policies to tackle land scarcity and uneven distribution of food, which focused on healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture as means of enhancing food security. Given the increasingly limited arable land and conversion of land for non-agricultural purposes, his Government had reemphasized the need to mainstream the marine sector and fisheries and other ocean-related issues and would continue its efforts to improve the living conditions of people engaged in small-scale fisheries around the archipelago.

17. **Mr. Bilan** (Ukraine) said that global food insecurity continued to represent a serious threat for humanity, with the number of people suffering from hunger around the world remaining unacceptably high. That situation was aggravated by the global economic crisis. Ukraine welcomed the United Nations initiatives aimed at halving global hunger and encouraged intensified coordination between all United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, which must continue to work together using the comparative advantages of different bodies to increase effectiveness, including Delivering as One at the country level.

18. However, those measures were not enough; a more formal system of global governance was needed. As a member of the Committee on World Food Security, Ukraine fully supported its reform and transformation into the basis for a global multi-stakeholder partnership which would serve as a platform for considering complex problems and reaching consensus on solutions.

19. Ukraine was going through one of the most difficult stages in its modern history and was grateful to the international community and organizations for their support and assistance. His Government commended the important work done by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme (WFP) to help it respond to the current humanitarian challenges. In conflict-affected areas with limited humanitarian access, WFP continued to provide food parcels to the most vulnerable people, including internally displaced persons, host families and those trapped in conflict hotspots.

20. Despite the difficult conditions caused by military action in the eastern regions of the country, Ukraine remained among the strongest players on the international food market, with the grain harvest for 2015-2016 expected to reach a record 63 million tons, allowing it to fulfil all agricultural export obligations. Cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies remained a priority of Ukraine's foreign economic activity and an important factor in the country's national food strategy. Despite existing challenges, as one of the top 10 global grain exporters Ukraine stood ready to continue working with the international community on resolving the problem of global hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and ensuring the most basic of human rights, the right to food.

21. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that the newly formed Government of his country had developed an action plan for the period from 2016 to 2020, reflecting his country's sustainable development vision for 2030. His Government had also launched programmes on healthy food, national production, and meat and milk production with a view to increasing the competitiveness of food production and thus boosting exports. It aimed to ensure food safety by organizing and stabilizing food supplies. The legal environment for the production of organic food was being developed through financial, investment and tax policies.

22. Another initiative was a crop cultivation campaign, which contributed about 20 per cent of his country's total agricultural output, and had introduced zero tillage technology to conserve soil fertility and increase crop yields through the introduction of harvesting machinery. As a result, his country had achieved self-sufficiency in wheat production. The action plan included a target of improving food safety through the establishment of a food preparation, processing, storage, transportation and sale system. His Government had recently celebrated World Food Day in collaboration with international partners and international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

23. **Mr. Bolaji** (Nigeria) said that although the food crisis was global, African countries were among the worst affected. Since agriculture was key to sustainable

food security, the current food crisis should be seen as an opportunity to prioritize agriculture, especially in Africa. Regional and international support was needed to assist developing countries in enhancing productivity and nutritional quality, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. His country therefore supported the partnership between the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative, the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel. That partnership would develop long-term strategies to tackle the endemic food crises in the Sahel. International efforts in support of a green revolution in Africa should be mainstreamed into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme launched by the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

24. His country also supported the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge initiative, which had since been fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, whose twin-track approach to food security and nutrition security was particularly welcome since it addressed the root causes of hunger and poverty among the most vulnerable. Efforts to achieve food security and poverty eradication should be nationally articulated and designed. His Government had launched an agricultural promotion policy to address two key gaps in Nigeria's agriculture and food security, namely, the drain on foreign exchange caused by food imports needed to compensate for low agricultural productivity; and the insufficient quality of food exports as a result of a weak inspectorate system, poor coordination among relevant agencies, and poor knowledge of target markets.

25. His Government had outlined medium- and long-term solutions to ensuring food security, including a graduate farmers' scheme providing soft loans to university graduates interested in farming; support for rural agricultural development; and irrigation schemes. It had also mapped out a comprehensive strategy to revitalize agriculture through an anchor borrowers' programme to boost domestic production. Agriculture and food security remained key to achieving internationally agreed development goals and the 2030 Agenda in particular. There should therefore be more investment in agricultural research and development; increased funding and investment in agricultural production; and a holistic and inclusive approach to sustainable agriculture and food systems.

26. **Mr. Rakhmetov** (Kazakhstan) said that, as one of the world's largest grain producers, his country attached great importance to food security and nutrition. Up to 80 per cent of its land was suitable for agriculture and it ranked in second place in terms of arable land per capita. It was also among the world's top 10 food exporters. The new railway from Kazakhstan to the Persian Gulf via Turkmenistan and Iran would enable a fivefold increase in wheat exports from Kazakhstan. His country was addressing the issue of food security by being the largest donor of humanitarian in Central Asia.

27. The vulnerability of developing countries to drought, floods and other natural disasters still remained relevant. Assistance from wealthier countries was often delayed or insufficient because of the lack of a systematic approach. Existing international profile structures were not capable of tackling challenges in certain regions, especially Africa, the Middle East and some Asian countries. A special international structure should therefore be established to address food security issues at the regional level. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was the perfect platform for developing that idea. The President of Kazakhstan had proposed the establishment of a mutual food assistance organization within OIC and the inaugural session of the General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), headquartered in Astana, had been held in 2016. The establishment of IOFS would facilitate the supply of grain and other food to States members of OIC, and lead to ambitious investment and infrastructure projects.

28. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that much had been achieved in reducing hunger, malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies but the challenge of ending hunger and achieving food security by 2030 was becoming more complex. The difficulty of increasing agricultural production, tackling climate change and reducing food losses was compounded by mass migrations within and between countries, and by war and violence that had uprooted large populations from productive areas.

29. In his address to the World Food Programme in June 2016, Pope Francis had warned of the dangers of

seeing hunger and poverty purely as statistics and of becoming immune to other people's tragedies. They were in no way natural or inevitable. Extreme poverty should therefore be "denaturalized" and seen as a troubling reality and not as a statistic. Hunger should also be "debureaucratized". It was a paradox that at a time when there was more than enough food for everyone, not all could eat. It was also paradoxical that whereas aid and development projects encountered political obstacles, skewed ideologies and impenetrable customs barriers, the trade in weaponry did not face those obstacles. The free circulation of arms in many parts of the world meant that wars were fed, and people were not. Hunger was sometimes even used as a weapon of war. Ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030 would require not only increased food production and better food distribution but also peace, social justice, solidarity and compassion.

30. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme) said that the 2030 Agenda went beyond business as usual and sought to achieve a world without hunger. The three Rome-based agencies would continue to build on their complementarities to ensure that people and the planet thrived and that no one was left behind. The way food was grown, processed, distributed and consumed would affect the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems should be prioritized, and there was a need to revitalize the agricultural sector and invest sustainably in rural development, especially in developing countries, while reaching the most vulnerable first, prioritizing human rights, addressing injustice and empowering women and young people. Strong political will would be required to address that complex challenge, along with the contribution of relevant actors, including the private sector, civil society and academia.

31. Reduced rural poverty and greater well-being required decent work, higher incomes, support for research and innovation, better land tenure and access to natural resources. A new holistic vision and urgent action were needed to leave no one behind. The vision of the Rome-based agencies involved bridging the gaps between humanitarian and development approaches to address crises and promote the self-reliance of displaced persons through investment in preparedness and long-term development to build resilience and break the cycle of crises.

32. Solving one problem could often solve a range of others. Sustainable agricultural development enabled poor farmers to lift themselves out of poverty and improve their own food security and nutrition; feed the world's growing population; and contribute to their countries' economic growth and development. The effects of climate change would require sustainable agricultural practices, including through diversified production, but food losses during storage, transport and at the retail and consumption stages also needed to be minimized. Rather than simply growing more food, the benefits of doing so should reach everyone for generations to come.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.21

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Summary record of the 21st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Djani (Indonesia)
later: Mr. Andambi (Vice-Chair) (Kenya)

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Agenda item 20: Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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16-18563 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 20: Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/71/347 and A/71/356)

1. **Ms. Kacyira** (Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on entitled "Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda" (A/71/356), said that that report had been transmitted to the Committee pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/24. It provided a description of the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in cooperation with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

2. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/71/347), she said that the report had been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/210. It provided a description of the activities of UN-Habitat during the reporting period, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

3. The New Urban Agenda was an action-oriented agenda for sustainable urbanization which would strengthen the role of local governments and harness the potential of partnerships across society. The Agenda brought new areas of responsibility for UN-Habitat, particularly regarding coordination and follow-up of its implementation. In that regard, UN-Habitat would work in close collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system.

4. Turning to governance reform of UN-Habitat, she said that the Committee of Permanent Representatives working group on the work programme and budget, established by the Governing Council in April 2015, had made a number of recommendations to the Executive Director on key managerial and programmatic issues.

5. With regard to the financial situation of UN-Habitat, she recalled that as at 31 May 2016, UN-Habitat had received 52 per cent of projected non-earmarked income and 25 per cent of projected earmarked income. It was implementing a strengthened resource mobilization strategy aimed at widening its donor base to include emerging economy countries and was streamlining full-cost recovery to enable more accurate attribution of funds to earmarked projects. Those measures would be further strengthened in 2016. It continued to control core expenditure through a wide range of measures, but the savings arising from those measures had been eroded by a significant reduction in non-earmarked voluntary contributions, and by exceptional items and circumstances, resulting in an increase of the core deficit from $1.2 million in 2014 to $5.5 million in 2015. Those trends threatened the financial viability of the Programme's core capacity.

6. Many donors and Member States had been awaiting the outcome of Habitat III before deciding on any new commitments; as such, an injection of financial resources into the core budget of the Programme would be required to maintain its current level of programme delivery. Furthermore, additional human resources capacity would be needed to take on the new responsibilities mandated by the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. UN-Habitat welcomed the evidence-based independent assessment agreed to in the New Urban Agenda as an opportunity to consider key structural and substantive questions about the future role of the Programme; however, the outcome of that assessment could be pre-empted by depletion of reserves related to the deficits in funding. She appealed to the Committee and to all States Members of the United Nations to respond to the need for bridging finance for 2016 and 2017.

8. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that work to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and its follow-up and review mechanism must begin forthwith. The Agenda was a delicate compromise. It was focused, forward-looking and action-oriented and yet struck a technical and political balance and was inclusive. The Group of 77 and China reaffirmed the

principles of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and the twin goals of achieving adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. They further reaffirmed the right to development in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development, in particular for developing countries.

9. The role of international cooperation and the commitment of developed countries were crucial in providing adequate, sustainable and predictable means of implementation, including financing, official development assistance (ODA), technology transfer and capacity enhancement as means to support national efforts and capacities of developing countries to deal with human settlements and implement the new Agenda. Existing gaps in capacities between developed and developing countries must be acknowledged.

10. In implementing the New Urban Agenda, particular attention must be given to addressing the unique and emerging urban development challenges faced by developing countries, especially countries in special situations, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Many middle-income countries, conflict and post-conflict countries, and countries and peoples living under foreign occupation also faced specific challenges. Different national realities, capacities and levels of development must be taken into account and national policies and priorities respected.

11. A strong organizational mechanism for implementing the New Urban Agenda, which emphasized the role and expertise of UN-Habitat, must be put in place. The Group continued to firmly support enhancing the effectiveness of UN-Habitat in both its normative and operational work, including providing capacity development and tools to national, subnational and local governments for planning and managing sustainable urban development.

12. The Group of 77 and China looked forward to an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat and the forthcoming high-level meeting of the General Assembly, at which the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of UN-Habitat would be discussed.

13. On review and follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, it was important to include the review of global progress in the implementation of that Agenda as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up process to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking fully into account existing mechanisms, including the UN-Habitat Governing Council.

14. **Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN believed that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would require all countries to harness the positive force of sustainable urbanization. Cities played a critical role in sustainable development as increasing numbers of people moved to urban centres. The New Urban Agenda reaffirmed the global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step for realizing coordinated, integrated sustainable development at all levels with the participation of all relevant actors.

15. Urbanization was changing the face of ASEAN, with urban areas currently accounting for more than 50 per cent of the region's gross domestic product (GDP). It was expected that an additional 54 million people would move into cities in the region by 2025, and cities would account for nearly 40 per cent of its GDP growth through 2025. Such factors were contributing to the creation of an expanding middle class, improved health, education, and infrastructure and a growing workforce. The region's cities faced numerous challenges to liveability and environmental sustainability compounded by high rates of rural-urban migration and rising affluence and expectations. Urbanization must be managed if its considerable economic, social and environmental benefits were to be reaped.

16. ASEAN had taken steps to ensure that its cities and urban areas were environmentally sustainable and that its peoples' social and economic needs were met. Through the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint (2009-2015), the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities and the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities,

individual and collective efforts to improve the quality of water and air had been intensified through initiatives to reduce industrial and transportation pollution. Experiences, expertise and technology continued to be shared in areas such as urban planning and governance.

17. Building on the ASCC Blueprint (2009-2015), ASEAN leaders had gathered in November 2015 to sign the Kuala Lumpur Declaration entitled "ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together". That landmark Declaration had highlighted six strategic measures: enhancing participatory and integrated approaches to urban planning and management for sustainable urbanization; strengthening the capacity of national and local institutions; promoting coordination among relevant sectors to provide access to clean land, green public spaces, clean air and water, and sanitation; promoting cities that were friendly to people of all ages and abilities; strengthening positive economic, social and environmental linkages between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas; and strengthening policies and strategies for the effective management of the impacts of population growth and migration on cities.

18. There could be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanization. The role of UN-Habitat in developing normative knowledge and providing capacity development and tools to Governments was critical in that regard. The successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda would contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

19. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), said that CARICOM welcomed the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, which demonstrated a collective commitment to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The importance of well-planned and managed urbanization in contributing to sustainable development, which was an overriding imperative, could not be overstated.

20. Rapid urbanization in the Caribbean region had led to a housing deficit resulting in a large share of the population living in informal settlements vulnerable to landslides, flooding and storm surges. Inefficient land markets, inaccurate property registrations and land disputes had compounded the problem and slowed housing construction programmes. A key problem in future would be protecting homes against rising sea levels given that half the population in the Caribbean region lived within five kilometres of the coast. Accumulated losses from disasters could severely and swiftly undermine years of social and economic development.

21. CARICOM supported the attention given in the New Urban Agenda to renewed local-national partnerships, in which private stakeholders and local governments served as strategic partners of national governments in support of national development targets. It was also in favour of decentralization and local self-governance, with effective contributions from local authorities and civil society to strengthen urban governance and management. In that context, urban-rural and cross-sectoral links and equitable distribution of resources across the urban-rural continuum were of great significance. Critical infrastructure must be prioritized in order to ensure coherence and coordination in integrated development efforts.

22. CARICOM advocated the continued strengthening of the work being done by UN-Habitat to support developing countries in such areas as improving urban legislation, planning and design, housing and slum upgrading, disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation. The significance of maintaining strong political will and of research and capacity development as well as the need to identify the financial means to implement the New Urban Agenda could not be overstated.

23. **Mr. Cortorreal** (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC welcomed the New Urban Agenda and reiterated its common aim of achieving all the goals of the 2030 Agenda, including Goal 11. The eradication of poverty was indispensable for sustainable development, along with a commitment to combat growing inequality and exclusion through the implementation of effective public policies to prevent geographical segregation and environmental degradation, which were being exacerbated by rapid urbanization.

24. Sustainable urban development was indispensable to achieving overall sustainable development. The New

Urban Agenda must be implemented within a framework of human rights and gender equality, placing a priority on equitable and sustainable human settlements. Cities must be acknowledged as cultural and recreational centres where diversity could be freely expressed. Political, social, economic and cultural participation must be guaranteed for people of all ages. Women must be empowered to participate in development and decision-making. Cities must be accessible for all persons, in particular persons with disabilities, in terms of their design, transportation, and communications.

25. The right to the city was a governing principle to ensure that city dwellers were able to fully and effectively exercise their human rights. When those rights were fulfilled and all actors assumed their responsibilities, urban development would effectively generate the opportunities that humans had sought since they began to concentrate in urban settlements.

26. **Ms. Naeem** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that the New Urban Agenda provided the international community with an opportunity to consider the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The mechanisms for the implementation of those agendas needed to be coordinated, and standardized reporting and follow-up data should be encouraged in order to reduce the reporting burden on small States, especially small island developing States.

27. Small island developing States had diverse sizes and types of urban spaces, and diverse definitions of what urban spaces were. As a result, they were often left out of discussions and data concerning only "cities", even though 59 per cent of the population of those States already lived in cities, and much of the remaining population lived in villages and towns. The metrics for urban trends should therefore include human settlements with populations under 100,000 in order to assist small island developing States in tracking urbanization challenges.

28. Urban design and development experts should devote their attention to settlements of all styles and sizes. Increased technical and human capacity-building were needed, in addition to support for long-term planning efforts including data collection and analysis. Best practices should be shared and new investment was needed to ensure that local ownership was in place and that cultural heritage and local governance were appreciated. The urban and rural development concepts outlined in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway were consistent with the New Urban Agenda.

29. The New Urban Agenda rightly devoted attention to improving connectivity, coastal management, sustainable consumption and production, and resilience in the face of climate change. The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters threatened urban environments in small island developing States since their human settlements were close to the oceans and seas. The damage caused by those disasters, such as the recent Hurricane Matthew, undermined the economic growth and sustainable development efforts of small island developing States.

30. The optimism of the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements should be revived. There could be no sustainable human settlements without action on climate change, awareness-raising and innovation in the areas of data and technology. In the current connected world, developments in urban areas impacted those in rural areas, and vice versa. The Alliance of Small Island States would therefore work with UN-Habitat and other key actors to implement the New Urban Agenda across all human settlements so as to make them more functional, resilient, accessible and sustainable.

31. **Mr. Bolaji** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group had adopted a common continental position on the New Urban Agenda because it believed that urbanization should be regarded as a process which, if properly harnessed, had the power to bring about structural transformation, including industrialization, and social inclusion, as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda. More than half the world's population reportedly lived in cities and towns, especially in Africa and Asia. Africa's rapid rate of urbanization posed challenges to policymakers seeking to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth and development, and accordingly required urgent attention and action. Urban settlements around the world and especially in Africa faced challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, food insecurity, economic instability, unemployment, crime and poverty. Social and economic inclusion was therefore

needed. That involved upgrading informal settlements, mobilizing urban financing from local and foreign investors, and improving human capital through equal access to education and health care.

32. The African Group was concerned by the assertion in the World Cities Report 2016 that the current urbanization model was unsustainable in many respects and that the pattern of urbanization needed to change in order to better respond to challenges and address issues such as inequality, climate change, informality, insecurity and unsustainable forms of urban expansion. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda would require an enabling environment and a range of means of implementation, including access to technologies, capacity-building, enhanced knowledge-sharing, and financial resources, which would be needed at the subnational and local levels where the bulk of the New Urban Agenda would be implemented. Domestic resource mobilization would continue to be necessary, but ODA was an important complement and played a catalytic role in such mobilization.

33. UN-Habitat should be strengthened so that it could carry out its mandate. The African Group considered that it was important to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under constant upward review so as to enable the effective delivery of services.

34. **Mr. Sevilla Borja** (Ecuador) said that, with representatives of 167 States Members of the United Nations, over 45,000 registered delegates and around 100,000 participants in the drafting of the New Urban Agenda, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) had been one of the highest-attended conferences in the history of the United Nations. It had also been one of the most inclusive processes in the history of multilateralism. More than 2,000 mayors had been in attendance, and civil society, non-governmental organizations and academia had also been represented. The option of holding the next Habitat conference after 10 years instead of 20 should be considered because of the rapid developments in the world's urban areas and the need to ensure proper follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

35. Local authorities should adopt the New Urban Agenda as the political guide for their future work since national Governments would not be able to achieve the goals set forth in the Agenda without the active participation of local governments and civil society. The right to the city, a focus of the Conference's proceedings, recognized the right of residents of cities and human settlements to live and be productive in a just, inclusive and sustainable environment.

36. Every effort must be made to reduce inequality, in particular by preventing land speculation and the related capital gains. If it was unacceptable to speculate on foodstuffs during famines, land speculation should similarly be penalized since land was key to urban development. More decisive action was therefore required to prevent a minority from becoming rich at the expense of the community as a whole.

37. The New Urban Agenda sought to increase resilience to natural or man-made disasters, and to promote the right to decent housing and full access by deprived vulnerable groups, the homeless and persons with disabilities, as well as respect for the integrity of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants. The time had come for national Governments, local authorities and all relevant actors to take action to design, implement and monitor plans and programmes that reflected the vision and principles of the New Urban Agenda while ensuring inclusiveness and eliminating segregation in urban and rural areas.

38. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that her country had been a co-facilitator in the negotiations surrounding the New Urban Agenda and, in that capacity, had sought to ensure that it would be people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented. Urbanization continued at a relatively high pace in her country, and one result had been a steady increase in economic growth from 5.8 per cent in 2012 to 7 per cent in 2016. However, urbanization had also created a host of challenges. Sporadic and unplanned growth of urban areas had resulted in poor services for managing solid waste, waste water, air quality and transportation and had also led to social exclusion as evidenced by the proliferation of informal settlements. Uncontrolled urbanization had also been linked to environmental degradation, natural resource depletion and the extinction of wildlife.

39. Those challenges required multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels. Her delegation therefore welcomed the call for States to set up mechanisms for implementing, coordinating and monitoring the New Urban Agenda, as well as evaluation mechanisms to assist in addressing rapid urbanization and poverty. The evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat in its capacity as a focal point in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda should be conducted and concluded at the earliest opportunity.

40. *Mr. Andambi (Kenya), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

41. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that people were moving to urban areas for a variety of reasons, but primarily in search of education, skills and jobs. Although urban areas were often centres of economic growth and prosperity, they were increasingly unable to provide basic services to their inhabitants, and much urbanization was unplanned. Better resourced and managed urbanization could become a driving force of sustainable economic growth and development, and social transformation.

42. As a founding member of UN-Habitat, his country valued its relationship with that Programme and welcomed the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. One sixth of the world's population lived in India. Its pace of urbanization matched its rapid economic growth. About 377 million people, or one third of the population, lived in urban areas, which generated over two thirds of the country's GDP and accounted for 90 per cent of Government revenues. His Government had launched three flagship urban development initiatives, namely, a mission for rejuvenation and urban transformation through infrastructure development; a smart cities mission on founding 100 cities in which the quality of life would be enhanced and a clean and suitable environment would be provided; and a programme on housing for all. Together, those initiatives were the expression of a holistic, technology-led and people-centred vision of urban development, and were supported by special programmes on manufacturing, digital technology, skills development and start-ups, all intended to reinvigorate cities as engines of economic growth. Those efforts were accompanied by a rural development strategy, known as the national rurban mission, which aimed to ensure integrated development and strengthen the complementarity between rural and urban settlements.

43. Economic development was inextricably linked to sustainable urbanization. Developing countries were undergoing rapid urbanization but their per capita incomes were low. Urban development should therefore be integrated into efforts to carry out broader socioeconomic planning to combat poverty, promote inclusive growth and reduce environmental stress.

44. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that the New Urban Agenda was an opportunity to achieve the goal of leaving no one behind and strengthen the global political commitment to sustainable development by means of a renewed global strategy on urbanization. However, in developing countries and especially in middle-income countries such as Guatemala, movements of people were part of the socioeconomic transformation that had traditionally occurred in that country and had for decades increased the urban population. Migration had increased the pressure on urban areas that lacked a good infrastructure and had no land use plans or institutions strong enough to serve people seeking opportunities. That land must therefore be prepared for conversion into orderly, inclusive, competitive and resilient cities, meaning that urban expansion must be contained and ecosystems must be protected.

45. For the first time, his Government was establishing an urban agenda matching the global agenda. It was therefore important to learn from the successful urbanization experiences of other countries. A focus on urbanization was an opportunity to redefine his country's development model. The Guatemalan urban agenda was intended to translate goals, guidelines and policies into realities on the ground, especially in the areas of inequality, environmental sustainability, capacity-building, food security and infrastructure, so that the State could provide the right conditions for orderly growth over the next 50 years. Implementation would nevertheless be the responsibility of local Governments and metropolitan regions on the basis of citizen participation.

46. The Guatemalan urban agenda sought to provide the mechanisms that would turn urbanization into the backbone of his country's development model. His Government had set up a compliance, monitoring and assessment committee to ensure successful

implementation of the national development plan, and would draft an action plan for the implementation of the agenda.

47. The relationship between urban and rural areas was of particular importance for his country since the gap between the living standards of the rural and urban populations needed to be narrowed. Inclusive and resilient urban planning was therefore key to avoiding disorderly expansion of urban areas and a lack of a regulatory framework, land-use plans, policies and laws.

48. **Mr. Fondukov** (Russian Federation) said that the adoption of the New Urban Agenda would not have been possible without taking into account the views of the broad range of participants and the specificities of individual regions; the thematic and regional consultations organized as part of the main negotiating process had also contributed to that outcome.

49. His Government's urban development, construction and housing and public services policy was already aligned with the New Urban Agenda. Given current urbanization rates in the Russian Federation, new approaches were being sought to such challenges as the growing concentration of populations and industries within limited areas, increasingly crowded transportation systems, environmental pollution and the need for access to safe water sources and sanitation, improved waste removal and processing, increased energy efficiency and maintenance of safety and social stability in populated areas. A range of measures was being implemented to address urban development issues, specifically as part of a national programme to provide affordable, comfortable housing and municipal services for Russian citizens and under targeted federal programmes on such issues as housing and clean water and also housing and essential services in seismic areas. Public-private partnerships that aimed to upgrade and improve the energy efficiency of municipal facilities and introduce the use of information and communications technologies into urban infrastructure management systems were additional drivers of development.

50. Every country had unique experiences and practices that could be of use to the international community. At Habitat III, the Russian Federation had therefore proposed the establishment of an open, continually updated international compendium of best practices in urban development and public services improvement, which could offer significant value to municipalities and national Governments.

51. The support of the United Nations system for national implementation of the New Urban Agenda was important. Accordingly, the Russian Federation emphasized the significance of UN-Habitat as a key body to coordinate intergovernmental sustainable urban development work in the context of the United Nations system and build the relevant national capacities of Member States. In the light of the issues facing UN-Habitat and the decisions set forth in the New Agenda, it was also necessary to reinforce and reinvigorate the work of UN-Habitat.

52. **Mr. Al Zaabi** (United Arab Emirates) said that his country was one of the most urbanized in the world and was located in a region of aridity and high temperatures, making resource management and energy efficiency critical priorities for its rapidly expanding economy. Its cities were nevertheless ranked among the most liveable in the region.

53. Tolerance was key to sustainable economic growth. The United Arab Emirates was one of the most diverse countries in the world and its open labour market attracted people from all corners of the world. The vibrancy of its cities was a rebuttal to the recent global increase in xenophobia. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda should therefore include education and awareness-raising about tolerance. Regulations and enforcement were needed to stamp out violence or harassment based on cultural, religious or other differences. Cities had to be safe for all residents.

54. Universal access to energy should be one of the main goals of the New Urban Agenda. Energy would enable all the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved and was fundamental for dignity and sustainable economic growth. Sustainable energy was important not only for the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change but also for economic growth and job creation. His Government had issued mandatory building codes that had cut energy and water consumption by over 33 per cent, and massively deployed smart meters. It had also introduced tariff schemes that had cut waste while protecting the needy. Dubai had set a target of 75 per cent clean energy by

2050 and was a pioneer in vehicle electrification, driverless cars and public transport.

55. His Government attached great importance to integrated strategic planning: the "UAE Vision 2021" programme aimed to make his country the most liveable in the world, with seven sub-themes ranging from the rule of law to environmental conservation. Ideas and experiences should be shared across cities, countries and regions in order to drive innovation and change behaviour. As part of its contribution to the New Urban Agenda, his country would host the 2020 World Expo in Dubai as a platform for innovation on how to harness the potential of cities as hubs of sustainable economic, environmental and social growth.

56. **Mr. Takdir** (Indonesia) said that Governments and relevant stakeholders should take into account the complementary roles of, and the interconnection between, the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement. The New Urban Agenda should complement the 2030 Agenda and its indicators should be linked to those of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Sustainable Development Goal 11.

57. Towns and cities, especially in archipelagic nations such as his, needed to be resilient in the face of rising sea levels and natural hazards. His country's national urban policy and strategy for 2045 included promoting green cities as well as smart cities that were competitive and technology-based and could therefore nurture innovation and productivity. Its national urban system would better integrate urban and territorial planning, inter alia by enhancing land and sea connectivity with a particular focus on coastal cities and on underdeveloped regions. The aim was to achieve sustainable and resilient development with a focus on urban governance and to boost prosperity so as to leave no one behind.

58. The New Urban Agenda should include a review of the mechanisms that enabled partnerships across all major stakeholders and created public spaces for dialogue. South-South cooperation and international partnerships were important as a complement to North-South cooperation, capacity-building programmes should be in place, and means of implementation, including financing, should be assured. His country was ready to implement the New Urban Agenda and willing to share best practices and lessons learned in housing and infrastructure development.

59. **Mr. Alikhani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda should take into account the specific needs, conditions and different levels of development of each country, and developing countries in particular. Furthermore, the importance of national ownership of the Agenda could not be overemphasized. There should be no one-size-fits-all approach to the implementation of urban policies.

60. The right to development was an inalienable and indispensable human right for every individual, on a par with all other human rights. An approach based on the right to development was a comprehensive process through which all human rights and fundamental freedoms would progressively be realized.

61. Effective means of implementation, including transfers of technology, technical assistance and financial resources, were needed for the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The normative role of UN-Habitat was the focal point of human settlement issues within the United Nations system. A number of challenges remained to be addressed. Specifically, attention should be paid to the threats and opportunities that resulted from rapid urban growth. Different spheres of Government should ensure a coordinated approach involving the adoption of national urban policies. Efforts should be made to place quality of life at the centre, regenerate national identities and increase citizens' sense of belonging.

62. Fast and safe mobility was an important part of an integrated transportation policy. The interaction between land use and transportation should be revived by introducing rail-based public transport systems in large cities and metropolises. The same applied to inter-urban and intra-urban transport systems. Furthermore, regular monitoring of adopted development plans and their periodic revision should be considered a component of the planning process.

63. **Mr. Mebarki** (Algeria) said that the New Urban Agenda was an important complement to the 2030 Agenda that would allow all people to share in the benefits of urbanization. The international community should ensure that adequate technology and resources

were made available to developing countries. In that connection, he urged wealthier countries to make good on their ODA commitments.

64. Since the year 2000, his country had dramatically reduced its housing shortage through a national programme aimed at providing decent housing with basic amenities to the largest possible number of people. As of 2015, his Government had built almost 3 million units, 60 per cent of them in urban areas and 40 per cent in rural areas. It had also relocated some 200,000 families out of slums, including 45,000 families in Algiers, making that city perhaps the first African capital to be slum-free.

65. **Mr. Mbodj** (Senegal) said that the international community must develop viable partnerships to implement the New Urban Agenda and effect positive economic transformations. Habitat III had taken place as countries were increasingly faced with the adverse consequences of rapid and often uncontrolled urbanization; sustainable urban development was therefore a crucial and cross-cutting factor for economic and social development.

66. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda must emphasize urban planning and reinforce land restructuring and regularization programmes to combat the proliferation of informal settlements. Sustainable urban development had substantial macroeconomic benefits that helped to increase economic productivity and improve people's living conditions. However, despite many such benefits, rapid urban development also presented serious global challenges. To address those challenges, his country had reoriented its national development policy in accordance with the principle of full decentralization, with a view to adapting national and sectoral programmes to regional priorities.

67. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda must also emphasize the promotion of smart and resilient cities, taking into account the need for energy efficiency, and increased financial resources to implement social housing policies and develop infrastructure. Implementation should also focus on policies to restructure urban centres, modernize rural settlements and update urban planning tools, which should incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation mechanisms.

68. **Mr. Cao** Zhiyong (China) said that international cooperation in the area of housing and sustainable urban development needed to be strengthened, especially in order to address the challenges facing developing countries. The New Urban Agenda would serve to guide such cooperation over the following 20 years. The development of human settlements should be aligned with that of the economy, and also with population growth, resource utilization and environmental protection. It was crucial to resolve those issues in developing countries in order to improve the situation for the whole world. The developed countries should create the external conditions for economic and social development in developing countries, and fulfil commitments to financing, technology, open markets and debt relief, so as to strengthen the capacities of the developing countries to address the issues of urban development.

69. His Government had always prioritized the construction and improvement of the environment for human settlements, and had promoted a new form of people-centred urbanization. It was currently implementing large-scale affordable housing projects, improving energy efficiency and emissions reduction in buildings, and upgrading capacities for urban sewage treatment and garbage disposal, and had made remarkable progress in those areas.

70. **Mr. Abdulwahab** (Bahrain) said that balanced urban development was essential to the implementation of Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Since the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, his country had been committed to creating sustainable cities. With a rapidly expanding population marked by a growing youth bulge, Bahrain had launched a number of pioneering and internationally recognized initiatives to respond to the needs of youth, as well as to empower women. It was working with UN-Habitat to update its housing policy, initially put in place in 2002, to reflect recent social and technological developments, and in particular to promote private-sector involvement and optimal use of renewable energy. Tens of thousands of new units would be built over the next few years. Bahrain had won several United Nations Public Service Awards, and had consistently been highly ranked in the United Nations e-Government Survey and the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report.

71. **Mr. Gayito** (Ethiopia) said that the New Urban Agenda must be implemented in a coordinated fashion with the other international agreements signed in 2015. Cities provided both complex challenges and opportunities; it was therefore imperative to comprehensively and inclusively address their structural problems.

72. His delegation believed that Governments, in collaboration with the private sector, must strive to meet the right to housing for all. In that regard, his Government had been implementing an integrated housing development programme at all levels since 2008 in order to address the country's housing problem. More than 250,000 houses had been built, 200,000 of which had already been transferred to urban residents, including low-income earners. The national housing programme had also created jobs, particularly for youth and women, encouraged saving, improved the capacity of the construction sector, and reduced the number of slums.

73. To address urban unemployment, his Government had also launched an entrepreneurship strategy that encouraged the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises by creating an enabling business environment and providing training, credit services, and production and sales places. His Government had likewise been expanding social and physical infrastructure in collaboration with the private sector.

74. Despite the considerable results achieved in implementing its urban development programmes, his country continued to face housing shortages, unemployment and a lack of good governance. In order to translate the New Urban Agenda into concrete action, international partnership within the framework of North-South and South-South cooperation must be further enhanced. Developing countries, and least developed countries in particular, must be supported with financing and technology transfer.

75. **Mr. Gouch** (Brazil) said that cities could be viewed as humankind's greatest invention, as they spurred innovation by facilitating face-to-face interactions, encouraged entrepreneurship, and promoted socioeconomic mobility and a more efficient use of natural resources. As the number of urban residents would surpass rural residents by one billion in 2030, with 95 per cent of urban expansion to take place in the developing world, his delegation believed that people had a right to enjoy the numerous benefits conferred by human agglomerations.

76. However, cities also concentrated and sometimes exacerbated environmental, economic and social challenges. Although cities only occupied 2 per cent of the world's land, they accounted for 70 per cent of total energy consumption and 75 per cent of carbon emissions. Moreover, social and economic inequalities reached their highest levels in urban areas. Those challenges could only be overcome by achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions. The New Urban Agenda provided the international community with a comprehensive set of actions designed to ensure social inclusion, environmental protection and economic growth, while acknowledging the central role of local governments and civil society in creating better cities. Those closest to the decision-making processes usually had the best answers to urban challenges. The Agenda also addressed important topics that had not been covered during the two previous Conferences, including balancing the need for compact cities with urban expansion, for upgrading slums without tearing apart the social fabric, and for promoting road safety.

77. In order to implement the New Urban Agenda, the United Nations system must improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its agencies and programmes that dealt with urban development. The Committee had an important role to play in that regard, as it was the locus for discussing the independent analysis requested by Habitat III and for formulating decisions on strengthening UN-Habitat.

78. **Ms. Khin Aye** (Myanmar) said that Myanmar, like many other developing countries, faced many issues arising from the rapid rate of urbanization, and was experiencing pressure on its housing, infrastructure and transport systems, as well as on its environment and communities. Her country was therefore developing national policies to address housing and urban development problems in close collaboration with UN-Habitat.

79. The population of Myanmar was growing at an average rate of 1.3 per cent per year; 70 per cent of

people lived in rural areas. To address the challenges of maintaining an equitable balance between the urban and rural populations in a predominantly agricultural country, her Government had renewed its focus on urban development and housing, with a view to providing housing for low-income groups, reducing poverty, empowering local governments through decentralization and establishing urban-rural linkages and road connectivity for growth and trade. Her country's national urban policy sought to ensure the development of sustainable cities by harnessing the positive economic, environmental and social aspects of urbanization while mitigating its negative consequences. Myanmar would continue to enhance its land administration and management policies and to promote a higher standard of living in rural areas rather than encouraging mass urban migration.

80. Her country was undertaking internal procedures to ratify the Paris Agreement. It had formulated an action plan for 2016-2030 to build resilience to increased risks of natural rapid and slow on-set disasters for all township and city dwellers, and a national climate change programme which identified eight priority sectors, namely agriculture, disaster risk reduction and early warning, forests, public health, water resources, energy, industry and biodiversity.

81. The New Urban Agenda would require effective methods and mechanisms of implementation and follow-up. The role of the international community in supporting developing countries by means of financial assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building would therefore continue to be essential. The implementation of the Agenda must also be mainstreamed into country-level United Nations development assistance frameworks in developing countries and especially least developed countries.

82. **Mr. Andanje** (Kenya) said that the New Urban Agenda established a firm foundation to promote safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable cities and human settlements. It recognized the numerous development challenges and explored innovative methods of coping with the demographic trends and rapid rates of urbanization that put tremendous pressure on cities, especially in developing countries. The outcome of Habitat III reflected a renewed political commitment to sustainable urban development. However, the implementation of the New Urban Agenda would require both financial and non-financial resources, including ODA as a catalyst to domestic resource mobilization.

83. While only 37 per cent of his country's population currently lived in urban areas, that figure was expected to rise to 50 per cent by 2030, thus requiring increased investment in basic infrastructure and services. Urban-based economic activities represented the bulk of his country's GDP, with cities also accounting for a significant proportion of physical, financial and intellectual capital.

84. His Government's key focus was resource mobilization; its priority was to increase domestic resources above the current 22 per cent of GDP in the medium term. As Kenya had recently become a middle-income country, it anticipated facing challenges in accessing funding from international financial sources. Expenditure and investment in Kenya had been decentralized so as to ensure the autonomy of the 47 counties in designing and managing programmes. His Government appealed for an upscaling of international cooperation to enhance capacity at the county level. It also sought to unlock the potential of the private sector and had introduced measures such as reducing the corporate tax rate for developers in order to address the annual 150,000 deficit of housing units.

85. UN-Habitat must be strengthened to enable it to play a central role in sustainable urbanization and human settlements; adequate and predictable funding was therefore crucial.

86. **Mr. Pinto Damiani** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda would be possible only through the collective efforts of the international community. Population growth, as well as the distortions produced by capitalism, had impacted human settlements, housing and the environment and contributed to poverty, internal displacement and forced migration caused by armed conflict. Access to housing was a fundamental human right enshrined in his country's Constitution. In 2011 his Government had introduced a new housing programme, based on the right to land, project financing and direct popular participation, to address the deficit of housing units at the national level, while making communities responsible for 40 per cent of all new housing built as part of the plan.

87. During the past five years, 1.16 million housing units had been built; the goal was to build 3 million housing units by 2019. His country had also launched a separate programme to improve living conditions in existing housing infrastructure in the country's most vulnerable areas. International cooperation and in particular commitments made by developed countries must provide the means of implementation to continue such urban development and housing projects while taking into account the three pillars of sustainable development. Financing and technology transfer must complement the efforts of developing countries to implement the New Urban Agenda. His country had shared its experience in housing and urban development with a number of other countries in the region, and was willing to follow that model with other countries as well.

88. **Mr. Jaime Calderón** (El Salvador) said that his country was committed to implementing the New Urban Agenda in a framework of democratic governance, while recognizing the social function of cities and ensuring equity, gender equality, social inclusion and the full participation of all persons, including minorities and vulnerable groups.

89. His country already recognized the right to housing and was now trying to establish the right to the city and the right to sustainable urban development while ensuring the development of communities and human settlements as well as the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. A harmonious relationship between urban and rural settlements was therefore necessary. Cities must be harnessed to promote local development processes aimed at economic solidarity and the equitable allocation of responsibilities and benefits.

90. Although national and subnational efforts were important, international cooperation must continue to play a key role in the implementation of all international agreements. His delegation called on the international community and all organizations involved in urban development to increase their support to developing countries as the latter sought to implement national policies in line with the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat was of key importance and must have the necessary capacity to carry out its work.

91. **Mr. Poudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that the New Urban Agenda must be implemented in an effective manner so as to create just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements and foster prosperity and quality of life for all. The Sustainable Development Goals could not be achieved without making cities and settlements sustainable; the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda must be implemented in perfect synergy and coherence.

92. Like many countries, Nepal was urbanizing rapidly and was therefore committed to creating peaceful, inclusive and sustainable human settlements. Following the devastating earthquake in 2015, Nepal had undertaken massive reconstruction efforts and developed ambitious national programmes to integrate Sustainable Development Goal 11 into its urban planning. However, international cooperation and support including through financing, investment and technology transfer remained essential.

93. As a landlocked least developed country emerging from conflict and recovering from a natural disaster, Nepal faced several specific constraints that might further impede its development. Its development costs were at least 20 per cent higher than non-landlocked developing countries, while further problems such as poverty, investment gaps, low or no access to technology, weak capacity and a narrow economic base, further compounded by the effects of climate change and natural disasters, continued to present obstacles to development. Despite such constraints, however, his country was confident that it would be able to achieve all the development goals and targets with continued cooperation and support from all sides.

94. **Mr. El Nour** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that the New Urban Agenda was a consultative framework for all city inhabitants and a rights-based document that recognized migrants as equal rights holders, in particular with regard to the right to the city. As the international community moved to implement the New Urban Agenda, it should capitalize on opportunities to improve synergies between migration and development, recognizing the positive contributions of migrants to development and giving the latter a chance to contribute to the well-being of cities. Migration needs and priorities must be integrated into city planning, including facilities,

infrastructure and services, with a view to ensuring that no one was left behind.

95. The New Urban Agenda provided an important platform for local government actors and community leaders to work together to facilitate the integration of migrants. Cities often had the highest rates of migrant integration, which resulted in a number of challenges.

96. During Habitat III, IOM had organized a side event on a migration governance framework that introduced the concept of the global governance of migration, an instrument to enhance the well-being of migrants and improve their contributions to development.

97. **Mr. Pinheiro** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that the New Urban Agenda recognized that inclusive and sustainable economic growth with full and productive employment and decent work for all was a key element of sustainable urban and territorial development, in full alignment with the 2030 Agenda. The New Urban Agenda called for ensuring decent work for all men and women, with equal pay; eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence, including in the workplace; promoting employment for youth, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and persons in vulnerable situations; and increasing productivity by providing access to income-earning opportunities, education, social protection and decent work for all.

98. The economic contribution of the working poor in the formal and informal sectors, particularly women and migrant, domestic and unpaid workers, was recognized in the Agenda, which also emphasized the need for greater formalization and a transition to higher-productivity and value-added sectors, including through diversification, technological upgrading, research and innovation.

99. The New Urban Agenda also supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular in the social and solidarity economy. New decent jobs would be created by enhancing energy efficiency and promoting more sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as by harnessing the ageing factor.

100. Concrete policies must be adopted that promoted respect for labour standards in the procedures for public procurement contracts and other elements of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; ensured the implementation of the ILO Recommendation No. 204 concerning the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy; provided support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including via innovative financial mechanisms and labour-responsible business practices; ensured compliance with adequate occupational safety and health standards; promoted the creation of green jobs as part of cities' efforts to act on climate change and to transition to more resource-efficient and low-carbon patterns; and promoted social dialogue at the local level, engaging workers and enterprises together with local authorities to discuss labour-related challenges and plan solutions. Decent work must be an integral part of urban policies and management.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.22

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Chair: Mr. Andambi (Vice-Chair) (Kenya)

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In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Mr. Andambi (Kenya), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.21)

Draft resolution on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea (A/C.2/71/L.21)

1. **Ms. Murmokaitė** (Lithuania), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.21, said that it was sponsored by all member States of the European Union, which had been joined by Monaco and San Marino, and was a follow-up to General Assembly resolution 68/208. It reflected concerns about the potential long-term environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, including their potential impact on human health and safety, as well as on the marine environment and resources. The draft resolution took into account the views of Member States and of relevant regional and international organizations reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/190).

Agenda item 59: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (A/71/86-E/20/2016/13)

2. **Ms. Khalaf** (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)), accompanying her statement with a digital slide presentation, introduced the report on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/71/86-E/20/2016/13). Owing to processing requirements, the data in the report covered the period ending March 2016 and did not include more recent developments.

3. Israeli policies and practices continued to violate international humanitarian law and international human rights law, undermining the Palestinian people's right of self-determination. Their cumulative effects since 1967 had had a debilitating effect on the Palestinian people and had given rise to growing tension and eruptions of violence. In October 2015, violence had erupted in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the aftermath of clashes at the Al-Aqsa mosque, with Palestinians perceiving that Israel was trying to change the status quo at holy sites and elsewhere, chipping away at the viability of a Palestinian State. Yet there continued to be a lack of accountability for Israeli settlers who committed acts of violence and attacked Palestinian property or religious sites.

4. Discriminatory planning and zoning practices in East Jerusalem, along with demolitions and forced displacements, had created a coercive environment that pressured Palestinians to leave the city, while those who remained faced increased poverty and neglect due to the severe lack of services. At the same time, incidents of excessive use of force against Palestinians were on the rise, with documented cases of what appeared to be extrajudicial killings and summary executions of individuals who posed no imminent danger. Since 1967, one in five Palestinians reported having been detained by the Israeli authorities, often in violation of international humanitarian law. Such violations included the excessive use of administrative detention of prisoners being held without charge or trial and forced feeding and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, as well as of medical negligence, including of children. Israel had passed a law in July 2015 allowing the forced feeding of prisoners on hunger strikes, a procedure that the Israeli Medical Association had characterized as equivalent to torture.

5. Israeli settlement policy lay at the heart of a multitude of discriminatory practices that included the deeply inequitable allocation of water and access to land, as well as a dual justice system in the West Bank, where home demolitions, land confiscation, forced evictions and the revocation of residency permits, inter alia, had created a continuing wave of displacements. Israel had resumed the practice of demolishing the homes of the families of suspected attackers, which was a clear violation of international humanitarian law. In more than 49 years of occupation, Israel had confiscated roughly 20 per cent of West Bank land. The wall in the West Bank, which had been ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice, remained the primary obstacle to the movement of Palestinians.

6. Meanwhile, in Gaza, 76,000 people remained homeless as a result of the 2014 Israeli attack and had been unable to rebuild because of the nine-year old blockade, which amounted to the collective punishment of 1.8 million Palestinians, with devastating effects on the population, infrastructure and economy. The result was a humanitarian disaster that had impeded projects by the United Nations and other organizations. Restricted access to agricultural land, limits imposed on fishing zones and the massive destruction of the water, wastewater and electrical infrastructure had compounded the hardships, damaging the agricultural sector and worsening the dire maritime, soil and air conditions.

7. Overall, those combined Israeli policies had left Palestinians with little access to their own water and land. By continuing to exploit Palestinian natural resources and pollute the environment, Israeli settlers and companies had stifled the economic activity of Palestinians, leading to an aid-dependent economy. Such an economy could not be put on a sustainable development path under the current paradigm. After almost 50 years of occupation, one in two Palestinians, or some 2.3 million people, would need some form of humanitarian assistance in 2016. The 26 per cent general unemployment rate and 40 per cent unemployment rate among youth provided an even grimmer outlook for the future.

8. Health and well-being had also been severely impacted by the occupation. Food insecurity was particularly acute in Gaza, where half of all families had insufficient food. Also in Gaza, due to the deterioration of health services and the effects of the 2014 destruction, both adults and children were suffering from the psychological effects of the occupation without adequate mental health support. For the first time in five years, infant mortality in Gaza was on the rise. Access to education for Palestinian children had also been compromised. In the West Bank, schoolchildren had been affected by the combined effects of the discriminatory allocation of resources, restrictions on mobility, and attacks and harassment by Israeli settlers and forces. The situation was particularly acute in Gaza, where the shortage of viable structures had forced 86 per cent of schools to operate on double shifts.

9. Turning to the situation in the occupied Syrian Golan, annexed in 1981 in violation of international law, she said that while Syrian citizens faced continuing discrimination with regard to access to water and restrictions on their ability to build in their own villages, Israeli settlers continued to move into the area, receiving Government support and incentives and expanding the exploitation of its natural resources. There were active plans to bring in increasing numbers of settlers.

10. Apparently employing a three-tiered approach that relied on population displacement, land grab and suppression of all forms of resistance, Israeli policies and practices throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Syrian Golan continued to violate international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as such fundamental principles of international law as the inadmissibility of acquiring land by force, the principle of non-discrimination and the right of peoples to self-determination. Until and unless Israel put an end to its occupation and complied with the requirements of international law in all its elements, there could be no prospect of peace.

Question time

11. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that in a number of places, the report used terms that were not appropriate. In paragraphs 6, 16 and 19, it used the term "Israeli security forces" where it ought to have used the term "Israeli occupation forces". The phrase "violence by illegal armed Israeli settlers" was used in the introduction, when in reality, all the settlers were illegal, and all were perpetrating violence against the Palestinian people. Paragraph 17 spoke of Palestinians "killed while allegedly carrying out attacks against Israelis" without clarifying that the allegations in question had been made by biased Israeli investigators, and had in many cases been proven false. The phrase "procedural and legal steps" was used in paragraph 40 in reference to the relocations of some 50 Palestinian Bedouin communities in Area C without clarifying that the "legal" system under which those steps had been taken was the Israeli occupation regime. Paragraph 50 made reference to the July 2015 death of a toddler and his parents in an arson attack without noting that the Israeli Minister of Defence himself had acknowledged that the Israeli occupation forces knew who the

perpetrators were but were delaying their arrest and prosecution. Greater detail was needed in paragraph 82 on how Israel prevented Palestinians from developing their natural gas resources off the coast of Gaza, as well as mention of the four West Bank oil wells that Israel was using for its own benefit.

12. There were several subjects that the report had failed to touch on at all. Israel's practice of withholding customs revenues had done severe damage to the Palestinian economy. There was also a vast discrepancy between Israeli and Palestinian incomes, which meant that paying the same prices and taxes for basic commodities was inherently unfair. Repeated statements by Israeli officials ruling out the possibility of a two-State solution were having the effect of discouraging investment in Palestinian areas. The report also failed to mention the Palestinian journalists who had been driven to hunger strikes or the various ways that the occupation prevented Palestinians from deriving maximum benefit from tourism at Palestine's holy places, including forcing tour groups to stay overnight in Israel rather than in Palestinian territory. Recent racist laws passed by the Israeli parliament and the cantonization of the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem were also having a negative impact on the Palestinian economy. Palestinians faced major obstacles to trade with the outside world and had to take time-consuming and convoluted routes to travel to work. The report also failed to show how Israeli businesses were using the Israeli settlements to evade taxes. He hoped that all those topics would be covered in future reports.

13. **Ms. Khalaf** (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)) responding to the Observer for the State of Palestine, said that many of his remarks were accurate and would be taken into account in future reports, although the 8000-word limit did not allow every detail of Palestinian and Syrian suffering to be reflected.

14. Concerning the use of terms in the report, ESCWA would re-examine the report to see if its future reports could employ language that more closely reflected the reality of the occupation. With respect to the issue of settlers, the position of the United Nations was that all Israeli settlement in the occupied territories was illegal; therefore, the expression "illegal Israeli settlers" used in the report should not be understood to imply that the presence of any Israeli settlers in the occupied territories was legal. The report had used the term as it appeared in Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/17. Regarding the cumulative economic cost of the occupation, that issue lay outside the purview of the report. However, along with other United Nations agencies, ESCWA had begun to construct an analytical framework that would permit a more accurate assessment of such costs.

15. When a situation was plainly unbalanced, it had to be reported as such. The report reflected that one side, the occupying Power, dictated the reality on the ground. Not a single nation, outside Israel itself, had failed to recognize the illegality of its expanded settlements. Israel had violated the Charter of the United Nations, countless Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and many instruments of international law. General Assembly resolution 3246 (XXIX) had reaffirmed "the inalienable right of all peoples... to self-determination, freedom and independence", and had also reaffirmed "the legitimacy of the peoples' struggle for liberation from colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation by all available means, including armed struggle". In January 2016, the Secretary-General had said that it was human nature to react to occupation, which often served as a potent incubator of hatred and extremism. It would be useful to recall the parallel drawn by Archbishop Desmond Tutu between the systemic humiliation of Palestinian men, women and children by members of the Israeli security forces and the treatment of black South Africans at the hands of the security forces of the apartheid Government. "Those who turn a blind eye to injustice," Archbishop Tutu had said, "actually perpetuate injustice. If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor".

General discussion

16. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that at a recent Security Council meeting, the settler who served as the occupying Power's Permanent Representative to the United Nations had made the claim that United Nations reports on the Palestinian situation were biased against Israel. In reality, those reports covered only a fraction of Israel's crimes, partly because Israel denied international investigators access to Palestine, but also because Israel's network of diplomatic terrorists

employed the tried-and-true ruse of using allegations of anti-Semitism to silence criticism. Those diplomatic terrorists had even gone so far as to prevent the South African judge Richard Goldstone, a fellow Jew and author of the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, from attending his own grandson's bar mitzvah. More recently, they had been up in arms over decision 25.1B of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) simply because it reaffirmed the established fact that the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Buraq Wall had no historical connection with the Jews. The Israeli Prime Minister himself had become involved in a deranged campaign against the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem after that organization's recent Arria Formula meeting with Security Council members about Israeli settlements.

17. Seven decades after the initial loss of 78 per cent of Palestinian territory, 700,000 Palestinian refugees had become 5 million. Five decades after the occupation of the remainder of Palestine, Israel was still in control of 61 per cent of the West Bank, which now contained some 600,000 settlers. Israel was continuing its 10-year siege of the Gaza Strip. It seemed pointless to issue reports that Israel did not even feel obliged to go to the trouble of reading. The Israeli settlements were a direct violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and a war crime, and the international community should take immediate steps under international law and recognized international resolutions to bring to justice the perpetrators of that crime and their accessories. His delegation renewed its call on Member States to boycott goods produced in the settlements, and to withhold citizenship, diplomatic credentials, business privileges and entry or transit visas from West Bank settlers.

18. **Ms. Paramanon** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the ESCWA report, while distressing, was useful in highlighting the persistent Israeli practices and policies that not only violated the rights of the people living under Israeli military occupation but also adversely affected their social and economic situation. The Group affirmed its unwavering and unequivocal support for the economic development efforts and aspirations of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and for the Syrian people in the occupied Syrian Golan.

19. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals included the pledge to leave no one behind. Yet the report under consideration revealed that the Palestinian people and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan would be left behind and would be unable to enjoy the fruits of sustainable development as long as they did not have sovereignty over their natural resources. Among the detrimental effects of the occupation were high unemployment rates, rampant poverty levels, widespread displacement and homelessness, extensive health problems, severe food insecurity, an insufficient number of schools and elevated school dropout rates, along with growing aid dependency for basic needs. In the environmental sphere, the effects included the he exploitation, endangerment and depletion of Palestinian natural resources, as well as obstacles to the implementation of critical environmental projects, such as a badly needed desalination facility and a sewage treatment plant in Gaza, necessary for addressing sanitation and health issues, including access to safe drinking water. Damaged electrical grids and shortages of fuel and electricity had created chronic power deficits.

20. It was clear from the report that the Palestinian economy and the occupied Syrian Golan could not be put on a sustainable development path under the current paradigm. The Group of 77 and China reiterated the call by the international community for an immediate end to systematic closures and restrictive measures. The Group reaffirmed its position that in the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and all major outcome documents, the severe difficulties faced by peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation must be taken into account, and the international community must strive to remove the obstacles to the full realization of their right of self-determination, which adversely affected their economic and social development and their ability to achieve and implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

21. **Mr. Malawane** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that Israeli practices and policies in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories were clearly obstructing Palestinian

economic and social development, and at times reversing it, undermining the right of the Palestinian people to development and self-determination. The situation begged the question of whether people living under foreign occupation had been adequately considered in the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land lay at the heart of discriminatory policies and widespread human rights violations, which undermined the prospects for peace and sustainable development. The severely lacking electricity and water services, deliberate destruction of homes, livelihoods and infrastructure, recurrent major military operations, confiscation of land, expansion of settlements, and prolonged restrictions on movement and trade constituted a unique humanitarian situation that was a direct result of 50 years of occupation. The Palestinian economy could not develop sustainably under such circumstances, and the mantra of "leaving no one behind" would ring true for Palestinians only when the Israeli occupation and its disruptive practices ended.

22. **Mr. Al-Kuwari** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, said that the ESCWA report attested to a systematic pattern of violations of human rights and international law by Israel, the occupying Power, and the resulting steep and alarming deterioration of the situation on the ground that had led to a human rights crisis among the Palestinian population. The continuation of the occupation was morally, legally and politically unacceptable. The assessment made in the report represented only a fraction of the violations that Israel, its military forces and settlers continued to perpetrate against the Palestinian people and their land, with total impunity, as the international community failed to hold Israel accountable under the law. At the same time, the socioeconomic, humanitarian and human devastation caused by the occupation had gravely affected the living conditions of the Palestinian people, severely undercutting any efforts towards sustainable development despite the assistance provided to the Palestinian people over many years by the international community, including United Nations agencies on the ground. Despite the calls by the international community to halt its illegal policies, and despite the fact that settlements posed the greatest obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution, Israel had not only continued, but had actually intensified, its illegal actions, including the construction of settlements and related infrastructure on occupied Palestinian land. The demolition of donor-funded humanitarian assistance structures had also spiked.

23. The occupying Power's continuing exploitation of natural resources, its obstruction of Palestinian movement by numerous measures, including the annexation, apartheid wall, permit regime and checkpoints, and the systematic collective punishment of the entire Palestinian civilian population indicated that it was more interested in consolidating control of Palestinian land than achieving peace and security. All those violations must cease and Israel must be compelled to respect international law. The Palestinian people could not remain an exception to the responsibility to protect civilians from atrocities and flagrant breaches of the law. The issue of accountability was just as urgent as addressing the humanitarian crisis, for without it Israel's impunity and depravity against the Palestinian people would be further emboldened.

24. In order to make tangible progress towards peace, security and prosperity, Israel must end its occupation and comply with international law, without exception. Failure to expedite that outcome would only increase the suffering of the Palestinians and lead to further destabilization, with far-reaching consequences, not least of which would be the impact on sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation called for the continued support of all Member States, the United Nations, and its specialized agencies and programmes to assist the Palestinian people in their efforts to attain their rights and fulfil their legitimate national aspirations to live in justice and dignity in an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

25. **Mr. Louati** (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that the report presented factual coverage of the ongoing Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law being perpetrated against the Palestinian people and the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan. Israel, the occupying Power, was engaging in discriminatory

policies and practices, including monopolization of water resources, and was killing and injuring civilians, including women, children and peaceful demonstrators. During the reporting period, 212 Palestinians, including 40 children, had been killed and over 16,000 people, including 6,000 children, had been injured.

26. Armed Israeli settlers were perpetrating violence and destroying property, while thousands of Palestinians had been arrested and had their homes destroyed. During the year 2015, some 544 buildings, including 79 in East Jerusalem, had been demolished, leaving more than 750 Palestinians homeless. Israel imposed restrictions on the movement of people and goods, in particular through its siege of Gaza and its continued construction of the West Bank wall. Israel also continued to deplete Palestinian natural resources and destroy infrastructure, inter alia by damaging utility grids that supplied thousands of Palestinians with water and electricity. Such practices undermined any hope of a two-State solution. In the occupied Syrian Golan, Israel planned to bring in 100,000 additional settlers, while continuing its discriminatory practices against Arab inhabitants there, including closing off vast areas to agriculture and herding, charging unfair prices for water and prospecting for natural resources.

27. The Group of Arab States called for stepped up efforts by Member States, the United Nations and international organizations to help the Palestinian people, and for protection of the rights of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan. An immediate end to Israeli settlement was the necessary first step towards a peaceful, just and comprehensive resolution of the Middle East conflict that guaranteed the right of the Palestinian people to establish a sovereign, independent, viable and contiguous State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the territory occupied since 1967, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative. Ultimately, a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East could not be achieved without a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territory, including the occupied Syrian Golan and the remaining occupied parts of southern Lebanon.

28. **Ms. Bajana Tinoco** (Nicaragua) said that it was not possible to speak of sustainable development and economic growth while a whole people was living under military occupation and unable to exercise control over its land, water and other natural resources and meet the basic needs of its citizens. The Palestinian people must be enabled to exercise their right to development and to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Her delegation was concerned by the continuing deterioration of the situation, which made it imperative to pressure countries whose passivity made them complicit in the suffering of the Palestinian people.

29. For there to be sustainable development in the occupied lands, the first step was to comply with existing resolutions that demanded an end to the occupation and respect for self-determination and sovereignty, which would enable refugees to return to the land that historically belonged to them. Her delegation hoped that the adoption of the draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77 and China under agenda item 59 would help mitigate the economic and social difficulties of the Palestinian and Syrian civilian populations living under foreign occupation and ultimately contribute to the international efforts to put an end to the injustice, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including humanitarian law, and human rights. Peace in the Middle East depended on resolving the question of Palestine and would require Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, the Syrian Golan Heights and all occupied Arab lands. It was also imperative to put an end to outside interference and intervention in the region in order to achieve peace and security in the Middle East for the benefit of the Arab and Israeli peoples.

30. **Mr. Axioma** (Indonesia) said that the Palestinian economy could not be placed on a path towards sustainable development given the planning policies, laws and practices of the occupying Power, which had consistently ignored numerous resolutions and calls by the international community to halt its illegal activities. The continuing expansion of illegal settlements was causing dire socioeconomic consequences, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of wells by Israeli settlers. The problem of economic development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was essentially political, not technical; for that reason, a political

solution was a prerequisite for the sustainable development of the Palestinian people.

31. His Government had hosted the 5th Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Jakarta in March 2016, which had drawn the attention of the international community to the urgency of attaining a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine. His Government provided technical assistance for the Palestinians at the bilateral and regional levels; under the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, it had launched 128 programmes covering such areas as good governance, small and medium-sized businesses, agriculture, sports, diplomatic training, tourism, health, energy and women's empowerment. In 2016, it had conducted capacity-building programmes for Palestinians in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. Indonesia reaffirmed its solidarity with the Government and people of Palestine in their legitimate struggle to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and to their natural resources.

32. **Ms. Shurbaji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Israeli occupation forces continued to impose their racist laws in the occupied Syrian Golan in violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981). They were offering incentives of up to $12,000 for Israeli families to settle there for a minimum period of five years, while preventing Syrians from engaging in agriculture — their primary source of livelihood — by closing off large swathes of land and blocking exports to the Syrian motherland. Israel was also continuing to dump toxic waste in the Golan, with disastrous health and environmental consequences. Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation was depriving Syrians of the use of their natural resources, and charging Syrians three times as much as settlers for water. The occupying Power had also expropriated Syrian land for wind farms and oil drilling, in collaboration with Western and United States companies.

33. During the current crisis in Syria, Israel had been providing logistical support and medical care to terrorists and mercenaries from the Nusrah Front and other terrorist groups. Recently, the Israeli Army had extended its influence to Wadi Yarmuk and Wadi Raqqad in the Dar'a countryside adjacent to the occupied Syrian Golan, and was helping armed terrorist groups to drive villagers from those areas.

34. Israel's inhumane and racist practices in occupied Palestinian and Syrian lands were blocking economic and social development. She called on the Committee to support the legitimate rights of Arab peoples under occupation by blocking any resolutions designed to whitewash Israel's image.

35. **Mr. Alotaibi** (Saudi Arabia) said that numerous reports had documented the Israeli occupation's flagrant violations of Palestinian rights, which included the racist separation wall, settlement construction, excessive use of force, home demolition, levelling of agricultural land, closures, and obstruction of access to healthcare, employment, markets, natural resources and humanitarian assistance. The siege of Gaza was having disastrous consequences for employment, productivity, living standards and food security, and was prolonging the financial crisis despite the Palestinian Authority's reforms.

36. Ever since Israel had occupied what was left of historical Palestine in 1967, his country had supported the right of Palestinians to an independent sovereign State with Jerusalem as its capital. The mosques, courtyards, walls and gates of the Haram al-Sharif were Arab Islamic Palestinian patrimony; to use biblical names for those sites was to acquiesce in the Israeli occupation's fraudulent retelling of history. He commended decision 25/1B of the Executive Board of UNESCO and stressed that, in Palestine, "status quo" meant the situation that had obtained under the Ottoman Empire and the British Mandate. He condemned attempts by settlers to enter and defile the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and Palestinian churches.

37. Saudi Arabia had made the Palestinian issue one of its top priorities, and hoped for the eventual establishment of peaceful relations among all the States in the region on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from all Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territory occupied since 1967. Israel must cease its violations and comply with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including the General Assembly resolutions on the inalienable right of the Palestinians to their resources and their right to compensation for any resources depleted or put at risk by unlawful Israeli practices. He hoped that future reports from ESCWA would devote full coverage to the challenges faced by the Palestinian tourism industry and other obstacles

that prevented Palestinians from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his country reiterated its condemnation of the occupation of Palestinian territories and the Syrian Golan by Israel as a clear violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, the forced occupation of a territory did not confer any rights over its land or resources. Israel's discriminatory actions, along with its constant acts of military aggression against the Palestinian people and their infrastructure, directly affected sustainable socioeconomic development in the occupied territories. The report demonstrated the high socioeconomic costs of the Israeli occupation, along with the segregation and displacement of the Palestinian population, illegal settlements in Palestinian territory and restrictions on movement and the gravest factors impacting economic growth included Israel's illegal exploitation and degradation of Palestinian natural resources, including the contamination of aquifer reserves and arable land, the loss of flora and fauna, and hurdles that prevented Palestine from developing its natural gas reserves off the coast of Gaza.

39. Venezuela upheld the principle of the sovereign management of natural resources; the illegal exploitation of such resources by third parties, particularly colonial Powers, violated national sovereignty and contributed to poverty and despair among the population. Without the ability to control their own resources and thereby provide for basic needs, it was not possible for developing countries to begin to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Palestinians could not hope to attain the Sustainable Development Goals if they did not enjoy independence and freedom, and the occupying Power plundered natural resources, with no concern for the environmental consequences. The Gaza Strip, with its entire infrastructure in ruins, including schools, hospitals and dwellings, could not possibly implement the 2030 Agenda while under blockade. The occupation was the root and sole cause of the difficult economic situation of the Palestinian people. International efforts in support of Palestine were insufficient. His country reiterated its demand for stronger action in the General Assembly and, above all, in the Security Council, of which it was an elected member. The principal organs of the Organization could not remain idle with respect to so grave an issue.

40. **Ms. Huma** (Maldives) said that it had been reiterated countless times that there could be no development without peace, and no peace without development. Since there could be no development without the right to land and natural resources, agenda item 59 would continue to be a subject of discussion. The report made it clear that segregation and discrimination remained rampant in the allocation of water, access to land, freedom of movement and access to the legal system. Conditions were further deteriorating every day, due to destruction of homes, land confiscation, inadequate basic services and the ongoing blockade of Gaza.

41. Conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan could not be improved without adherence to the principles of the inadmissibility of acquiring land by force and non-discrimination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Her delegation reiterated its steadfast support for the rights of the Palestinians, including the need for a two-State solution as a fundamental step towards safeguarding the human rights of the Palestinian people and their right of self-determination. Her delegation unequivocally condemned all practices and policies that violated international humanitarian law and international human rights law; the rule of law at the global level was the bedrock of international relations and the linchpin for sustaining peace and stability.

42. Through its occupation, policies and practices, Israel was undermining the right of the Palestinian people to development, self-determination and peace. The occupation would have lasting consequences; violence, discrimination and hate would never lead to peace, but only to more violence, hate and extremism. The 2030 Agenda could not be realized until the independence and sovereignty of all peoples under occupation was achieved, including the case of Palestine and the Syrian Golan.

43. **Mr. Hajimohammadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Palestinian people would never enjoy the benefits of sustainable development as long as they had no sovereignty over their natural resources. Their rights and dignity had long been trampled by the occupying Power: they had been forced to leave their

homes, deprived of their right to pursue social and economic prosperity in their own homeland and denied their inalienable right to self-determination. Israeli settlements continued to expand into the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which remained a captive market for exports from Israel. Socioeconomic conditions had worsened in Gaza and Israel continued to expropriate Palestinian agricultural land in the West Bank to build housing and infrastructure for exclusive use by settlers. Israeli settlement policies violated international law and all the relevant Security Council resolutions. The collective punishment imposed by Israel constituted grave breaches of international humanitarian law, crimes against humanity, and serious threats to international peace, security and stability. The existence and expansion of the illegal settlements lay at the heart of the apartheid Israeli policies and human rights violations, which included home demolitions, discriminatory allocation of water and access to land and restrictions on movement.

44. His delegation urged the United Nations system to strengthen its programmes of assistance to mitigate the suffering of the Palestinians and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan through the provision of adequate resources and effective operational activities. Any solution to the crisis in Palestine, including ways and means to achieve sustainable development and economic growth in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, required an immediate termination of the occupation and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, establishment of their independent and viable State, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital, and full sovereignty over their natural resources.

45. **Mr. Castro Cordoba** (Costa Rica) said that his delegation firmly believed that there could be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development; yet the Palestinian people continued to be subjected to discrimination and deprivations that impeded their legitimate aspirations for development. The political situation, and more specifically the internal security situation in the Palestinian territories, was very complex. His delegation reiterated its call for the parties to reactivate and strengthen the mechanisms for dialogue and work together in a transparent manner for the benefit of their respective populations. On the road to sustainable development, both parties had responsibilities, although those responsibilities were differentiated. Negotiations must resume on the core issues of the conflict on the basis of the obligations already incurred and agreements previously reached, backed by international law and the international community.

46. A year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Committee must ensure support for sustainable development in Palestine. In that context, it was important to guarantee access to basic health services and quality education, women's empowerment, and access to water, sanitation, and sustainable energy. With a view to building peaceful and inclusive societies, it was also vital to make respect for all human rights, including the right to development, a reality for Palestine. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority must focus on a single central goal: to guarantee the sustainable development of the Palestinian people so that no one was left behind.

47. **Mr. Raja Zaib Shah** (Malaysia) said that the ESCWA report confirmed that the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan was worsening. His delegation had been at the forefront in the Security Council in highlighting Israel's illegal settlement expansion, which continued unabated despite overwhelming criticism by the international community. Israel's repressive policies of constructing a wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, exploiting Palestinian natural resources, demolishing homes, revoking residency rights, conducting military operations and severely restricting the movement of people and goods were all in violation of Palestinian rights. Its ruthless treachery against the Palestinian people, including home demolitions and discriminatory allocation of water and access to land, had a particularly harsh physical and psychological impact on children as they moved into adulthood knowing only occupation, repression and violence, and boded ill for the prospects of peace in the Middle East.

48. His delegation urged the United Nations system to strengthen its assistance to the Palestinians and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan, and called on the international community to provide adequate and reliable funding to the relevant agencies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as well as financial resources to facilitate their work in reducing

the hardships caused by the infringement of the sovereignty of the Palestinians and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources. It also condemned the recent deportation of the women activists aboard the Freedom Flotilla *Zaytouna-Oliva*, aimed at breaking the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. His delegation supported the call by the Palestinian leadership to make 2017 the year that the Israeli occupation ended and the historical injustice suffered by the Palestinian people for half a century was corrected.

49. **Mr. Slaiman** (Iraq) said that the ESCWA report showed how the Israeli occupation violated international humanitarian and human rights law, and affected economic and social conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. The separation wall, the siege of Gaza and other restrictions on Palestinian movement were denying Palestinians the full use of their natural resources. Israel's settlement policy and its attempts to alter the demographic composition of Jerusalem were in flagrant defiance of some dozen Security Council resolutions. Such behaviour undermined any peace initiatives.

50. The Palestinian people had the right to the use of their land, water and natural resources, and were entitled to compensation for any of those resources that were exploited or depleted as a result of the occupation's unlawful measures. The 2030 Agenda's pledge to leave no one behind would be hard to implement in Palestine as long as Israel continued to act with impunity. He called on Member States to support the draft resolution on the current agenda item, and expressed support for the Palestinian President's proposal to declare 2017 the year to end the Israeli occupation.

51. **Mr. Al Hemrani** (United Arab Emirates) said that despite the numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions demanding that Israel halt the construction of illegal settlements in Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, Israel had not responded and had further expanded those activities, thus fragmenting the West Bank and restricting the Palestinians from accessing their natural resources. The Arab population of the Syrian Golan, which was still illegally occupied by Israel, similarly suffered from discrimination, restriction of movement, and denial of access to resources necessary for their work and livelihood. The construction of the separation wall had resulted in confiscation of land, destruction of water resources, and the disintegration of Palestinian society. Widespread poverty, unemployment and lack of food and water security had deprived the Palestinian people of their right to sustainable development. The international community must commit to ensuring sustainable development through the removal of obstacles that limited people's capacities to achieve it.

52. His delegation supported the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to their natural resources and the establishment of their independent State on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with all relevant international resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative. It also stressed the Arab identity of the Syrian Golan and the right of the Syrian people to recover the occupied Golan. International efforts must be intensified to achieve a comprehensive and lasting solution to the situation in the Middle East, in which the end of the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights, was guaranteed. His delegation applauded the efforts of United Nations entities to help the Palestinian people and supported their right to become a full State Member of the United Nations. The United Arab Emirates urged the international community, financial institutions and donors to provide assistance to UNRWA so that it could ensure that the Palestinian people had the capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda and rebuild their institutions pending a comprehensive and fair resolution of the Middle East issue. In that regard, his country was making a voluntary annual contribution of $1.8 million to the core budget of UNRWA, as well as other contributions amounting to 15 million dirhams.

53. **Ms. Aljazi** (Jordan) said that the Israeli occupation had been obstructing Palestinian economic and social progress for almost half a century. Israeli settlements, the racist separation wall, revocation of residency rights in East Jerusalem, expropriation of land and resources, closures and mobility restrictions were all continuing to deprive the Palestinian people of their right to development. The siege of Gaza was now entering its tenth year. As the financial crisis continued, Palestinians were seeing a slowdown in economic growth, increased unemployment and

poverty, food shortages, a shrinking agricultural sector, declining incomes and rising inflation. Various reports had detailed the effects on Palestinian agriculture of land confiscations, land destruction, deforestation and settler bypass roads. Even water was being distributed in a discriminatory manner. In Gaza, Israel was barring Palestinians' access to 50 per cent of their agricultural land and 85 per cent of their fish resources. Losses from the three wars since 2008 had been estimated at three times the gross domestic product (GDP).

54. Israel's occupation was a violation not only of international law but also of the Palestinian people's right to development. She urged member States to pressure Israel to enable the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination and establish an independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital. In the meantime, the international community should continue to provide the necessary assistance for Palestinians to meet their basic needs.

55. **Mr. Annakou** (Libya) said that Israel was continuing to construct the separation wall that had been ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004. During 2015, the occupation authorities had done extensive damage to water infrastructure on the West Bank by destroying wells, reservoirs and water tanks, and had ruined thousands of acres of land by torching, spraying chemicals or dumping waste. Home demolition continued at an alarming rate in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, while settlements continued to expand. The effects of displacement were particularly acute in Gaza, where many people were cut off from the water and sanitation grids, and recovery from the 2014 military offensive continued to be impeded by the ongoing siege. In the occupied Syrian Golan, settlement construction also continued, and inhabitants were denied access to water and agricultural land.

56. Given the centrality of the Sustainable Development Goals to the Committee's agenda, delegations needed to consider what effect all those Israeli measures were having on Palestinians' prospects for development. Poverty eradication and food security were all but unattainable when people were deprived of their livelihoods and natural resources. Gender equality was beyond the reach of the vast majority of qualified Palestinian women who were out of work. A society where no one was marginalized could not be achieved under conditions of discrimination, apartheid and siege. The Israeli occupation's practices were a violation of numerous international instruments, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. He reaffirmed his country's support for the right of the Palestinian people to an independent State in all of its territory with Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of all refugees to return to their homeland, and he urged the international community to act to end the siege of Gaza and protect the rights of Palestinians under international law.

57. **Ms. Scott** (Namibia) said that her delegation was deeply concerned by the reported accelerated construction of Israeli settlements and the apartheid wall, the exploitation of Palestinian natural resources, the increased demolitions of homes, economic institutions, and agricultural infrastructure. The severe restrictions on movement imposed by Israel through the blockade of Gaza amounted to collective punishment of the Palestinian people. Her Government called on the Israeli Government to desist immediately from settlement and wall construction, cease its destruction of Palestinian homes and properties, and comply with the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Israel must also cease the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan; loss and reduction of land, water and other natural resources were some of the main factors that prevented the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory from thriving.

58. Namibia supported the international consensus that the illegal Israeli occupation must end. Statehood and independence were the national, legal and inalienable rights of all people, including Palestinians;. It was unacceptable that the Palestinian economy was so heavily reliant on international assistance because too many barriers had been put in the way of normal economic activities. The argument that Palestine was ineligible for statehood because of poor economic health was invalid, as that had never been considered a criterion upon which statehood was recognized, or a factor considered when a country applied for membership in the United Nations. Palestine was already recognized as a State by 132 countries, and it

was high time for the Palestinian people's right of self-determination to be internationally recognized. It was disheartening that an occupying Power could so blatantly seek to consolidate its illegal occupation and attempt to make it irreversible, while simultaneously enjoying sympathy, recognition and assistance from some quarters.

59. Namibia called on the international community to continue its efforts to ensure respect for obligations under international law, in order to secure an end to all illegal Israeli practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly the settlements programme. Her Government strongly believed that the only avenue available for economic and social development in the occupied territories in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was formal international recognition of the State of Palestine.

60. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt) said that under Israeli occupation, the inhabitants of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan lived in a world that could not be further removed from the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and other international instruments such as the New Urban Agenda just adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). Israeli settlement expansion was a flagrant violation of international law. Home demolition, land confiscation and restrictions on Arab construction in the West Bank had impoverished inhabitants to the point that one of every two Palestinians were in need of some kind of humanitarian assistance and 75 per cent of the population of East Jerusalem lived below the poverty line. With Palestinian movement restricted by such arbitrary Israeli measures as the construction of the separation wall, it was no surprise that the Palestinian economy was estimated to be operating at only half of its potential.

61. Particularly troubling in the light of Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals on clean water and sanitation was Israeli monopolization of water resources in the West Bank, where settlers were allocated many times more water per capita than Palestinians. In the occupied Syrian Golan as well, Syrian farmers were denied access to water while Israeli settlements were well supplied. The situation described in the report was not sustainable. The 2030 Agenda's promise of leaving no one behind could only be fulfilled in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan by bringing an end to the Israeli occupation.

62. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories, systematic human rights violations, indiscriminate attacks against civilians and expansion of illegal settlements by Israel, the occupying Power constituted an affront to the rights of the Palestinian people. The devastation wrought by nearly five decades of occupation had gravely affected living conditions. The humanitarian and socioeconomic situation was dire, especially under the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, which was now entering its tenth year. The destruction of homes and property and the exploitation and depletion of Palestinian natural resources had compounded the difficulties. The occupation and blockade caused shortages of water, fuel and electricity, and were obstacles to the implementation of critical environmental projects, such as water desalination and sewage treatment facilities, to the detriment of public sanitation and the health and well-being of the population. Those issues must be urgently addressed.

63. The Sustainable Development Goals were universally applicable, regardless of political status. However, the Palestinian and Syrian people would not enjoy the benefits of sustainable development until they had sovereignty over their natural resources. His delegation called on the international community to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to end its systematic violation of international humanitarian law and human rights so that the economies of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, could grow. The absence of the right to self-determination of the people living in those territories posed a significant challenge to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

64. **Mr. Al Shuaibi** (Oman) said that as the report showed, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Israel was continuing to construct settlements, extend the separation wall, exploit Palestinian natural resources, demolish homes, revoke East Jerusalem residency rights, conduct military operations, close off areas and

impose restrictions on the movement of people and goods, including the siege of Gaza. Israel's policies constituted a violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In the occupied Syrian Golan as well, Israel imposed excessive force and mobility restrictions while expanding settlements and monopolizing natural resources. He called on the international community to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, to desist from its illegal practices and to lift restrictions on the ability of the Palestinian people and the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan to improve their economic and social conditions so that they could live a life of dignity.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.23

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 23rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 2 November 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Djani (Indonesia)

Contents

Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

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(a) International trade and development (*continued*)

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(c) External debt sustainability and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 18: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (*continued*)

Agenda item 20: Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*)

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 22: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*)

(b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (*continued*)

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16-19159 (E)

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Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*)

(b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*)

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*)

Agenda item 59: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*)

The meeting was called to order at 10.21 a.m.

Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.23)

Draft resolution on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/C.2/71/L.23)

1. **Mr. Larhmaid** (Morocco), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.23, said that Canada, Georgia, Jordan, and the Republic of Moldova had joined the list of sponsors.

Agenda item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.31)

Draft resolution on the promotion of international cooperation to curb and recover illicit financial flows. (A/C.2/71/L.31)

2. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.31 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.29)

Draft resolution on international trade and development (A/C.2/71/L.29)

3. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.29 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reiterated the vital role of international trade for economic growth and development in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries emerging from conflict and countries in Africa.

(b) International financial system and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.30)

Draft resolution on the international financial system and development (A/C.2/71/L.30)

4. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.30 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(c) External debt sustainability and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.33)

Draft resolution on external debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/71/L.33)

5. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.33 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was premised on the increasing necessity to proactively protect the ability of developing economies to continue to leverage debt financing for sustainable development, especially to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The draft resolution provided a substantive framework for the consideration by the General Assembly of a timely response to the diverse challenges related to external debt sustainability and development in order to preclude the re-emergence of widespread debt crisis in developing countries.

Agenda item 18: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.32)

Draft resolution on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/C.2/71/L.32)

6. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.32 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it built on the mandate of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, providing the General Assembly and the Committee with an opportunity to provide guidance to the discussions on financing for development. The draft resolution aimed to create a platform for engagement in order to lay a solid foundation for future Economic and Social Council forums on that issue. The Group reasserted the need to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development as encapsulated in Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda.

Agenda item 20: Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.36)

Draft resolution on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/C.2/71/L.36)

7. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.36 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.25)

Draft resolution on international migration and development (A/C.2/71/L.25)

8. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.25 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution recognized the massive positive contributions of migration, migrants and human mobility and aimed to correct the negative public perception of migrants and raise awareness on the complex interrelationship between migration, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Agenda item 22: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.26)

Draft resolution on follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/71/L.26)

9. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.26 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.27)

Draft resolution on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (A/C.2/71/L.27)

10. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.27 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.24)

Draft resolution on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/C.2/71/L.24)

11. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.24 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.22)

Draft resolution on industrial development cooperation (A/C.2/71/L.22)

12. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.22 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.34)

Draft resolution on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/C.2/71/L.34)

13. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.34 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that a new paragraph 6 encouraged States to fully take into account the Rome Declaration on Nutrition as well as the Framework for Action in designing their national policies. The draft resolution also recognized the global problem of food waste and its consequences for climate change.

Agenda item 59: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.35)

Draft resolution entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" (A/C.2/71/L.35)

14. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.35 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution had been based on the relevant report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (A/71/86-E/2016/13) which reflected the severely negative impacts on the socioeconomic condition of the Palestinian and Syrian people. It included updates of the current realities on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan. The draft resolution reaffirmed the urgency of addressing the dire humanitarian crisis and advancing reconstruction in the Gaza Strip.

The meeting rose at 10.50.

United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.24

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 24th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 8 November 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Djani ..... (Indonesia)

Contents

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(j) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*)

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*)

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*)

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

Agenda item 59: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*)

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16-19511 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(j) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.18)

Draft resolution on sustainable mountain development (A/C.2/71/L.18)

1. **Ms. Mele** (Italy), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.18 also on behalf of Peru, said that, since the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had all shaped a new paradigm for sustainable mountain development. The draft resolution had been aligned with the implementation of those four agreements and updated with new information regarding the special vulnerabilities of mountain peoples and ecosystems, in particular in developing countries. The various actions that had been taken around the world to address those specific challenges had also been incorporated in the draft resolution.

Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.37)

Draft resolution entitled "Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/71/L.37)

2. **Mr. Tatiyapermpoon** (Thailand), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.37 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide the United Nations development system with the strategic guidance necessary to strengthen the system, with a view to improving its support to Member States in their respective efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. The draft resolution emphasized the importance of the principle of national ownership, which should guide the system's response to the needs and priorities of Member States. It clearly outlined the expectations of Member States concerning operational activities for development and described how the system should be financed and governed in order to carry out its mandates. The draft resolution also demonstrated how the critical issue of the resident coordinator system should be addressed. Finally, it stressed the crucial importance of having a clear system-wide monitoring and reporting mechanism for Member States to be able to follow up and review implementation.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.28)

Draft resolution entitled "Sustainable Gastronomy Day" (A/C.2/71/L.28)

3. **Mr. Tenya Hasegawa** (Peru), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.28, said that in his country, as in many others, gastronomy was a clear example of the catalysing role that culture could play in favour of sustainable development; it was an ideal means to increase awareness of the integrated nature of sustainable development and mobilize all people, through their daily food consumption patterns, to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. By establishing an international day for sustainable gastronomy, the draft resolution sought to recognize the potential of gastronomy and the shared responsibility to realize global goals such as eradicating poverty and hunger, promoting sustainable agriculture and food security, ensuring healthy lifestyles, promoting continuous learning and decent work, empowering women, promoting inclusive economic growth, reducing inequality, encouraging the sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and promoting sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

5. As could be clearly seen in the fields, markets and kitchens where food was shared throughout the world, all of the aforementioned goals were interconnected and indivisible. The celebration of an international sustainable gastronomy day could therefore have a great impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The proposed date was 22 June, which was close to the summer solstice, a day of great agricultural importance.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.2)

Draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/C.2/71/L.2)

6. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.2 had no programme budget implications. A recorded vote had been requested by Israel.

7. **Ms. Niyomthai** (Thailand), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group highly valued consensus and the unique and meaningful tradition of adopting almost all draft resolutions by consensus in the Second Committee. It recognized the multidimensional, adverse impact of the oil slick on Lebanese shores and on other countries directly affected by the oil slick, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, whose shores had been partially polluted. Member States, international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector were urged to intensify their support, particularly for recovery and rehabilitation activities.

8. **Mr. Mansour** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the valuable time of the Second Committee had once again been hijacked for political purposes. Instead of tackling the major social, economic and environmental challenges at hand, the Committee was being cynically used to advance narrow political objectives. There had been 10 years of useless discussion on an issue that was irrelevant to current environmental challenges. The draft resolution failed to mention that the conflict had been initiated in 2006 by Hizbullah, which was recognized as a terrorist organization by many delegations, including the main supporters of the draft resolution. For more than one month, Hizbullah had fired thousands of rockets at Israeli towns, using civilians as a human shield and causing immense damage to civilian infrastructure and forests and wildlife.

9. Immediately after the event causing the oil slick, Israel had allowed for aerial photographs to be taken; it had also offered to provide special equipment to treat the oil slick. The draft resolution did not mention the extensive cooperation between Israel and the United Nations Development Programme or the other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations addressing the environmental situation along the coast of Lebanon. The 2007 report entitled "Lebanon, Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment", published by the United Nations Environment Programme, had illustrated that the damage of the oil slick was not as severe as initially stated by Lebanese authorities; it did not implicate Israel in any way.

10. The sanitation problem in Lebanon was much more urgent. For over two years, Lebanon had been flooded with waste, causing severe health problems to its people and its neighbours. Illegal garbage burning near the border with Israel had caused serious health hazards to that population.

11. Despite the fact that the oil slick no longer existed, the Committee continued to focus on it rather than deal with issues of real environmental impact. The point of the exercise was solely to demonize and isolate Israel. It was time to remove the resolution from the agenda and allow the international community to focus on more important issues. His delegation called on all those who respected the professional nature of the Committee to vote against the draft resolution.

12. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.2.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali,

Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Tonga, Vanuatu.

Draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.2 was adopted by 156 votes to 8, with 6 abstentions.

13. **Mr. Abbas** (Lebanon) said that said that for the eleventh consecutive year, the Second Committee had voted overwhelmingly in favour of the draft resolution, acknowledging the serious adverse environmental, economic and health-related implications of the oil slick in Lebanon as a consequence of the Israeli bombing of El-Jiyeh electric power plant in 2006. The resulting oil spill had entirely covered the Lebanese coastline and also affected the country's neighbours and a significant surface area of the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

14. The draft resolution reaffirmed the Second Committee's commitment to upholding international law, in particular the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the rules and principles of international environmental law. The international community must hold countries responsible for internationally wrongful acts: time must not be seen as a vehicle for impunity. According to the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/71/217), compensation for damages would amount to $856.4 million. Lebanon would continue to mobilize all resources necessary and resort to all legal means to ensure that the draft resolution was fully implemented and compensation was promptly provided.

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.3/Rev.1)

Draft resolution entitled "Towards a New International Economic Order" (A/C.2/71/L.3/Rev.1)

15. **The Chair** said that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

16. **Ms. Niyomthai** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the revised draft resolution was highly relevant in the context of the 2030 Agenda and all other international agreements. It was also in accordance with the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. Adopting the draft resolution would foster policy coherence and create an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels. That meant not only broadening and strengthening the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and governance, but also undertaking the necessary reforms for coherent and mutually supporting world trade and monetary and financial systems, while respecting each country's policy space.

17. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that his delegation had consistently voted against the resolution in past years, as it fell short of the current dialogue on shared economic, social and development priorities. The world economy and the challenges facing it were vastly different from those of the mid-1970s. The extraordinary growth in trade and international investment had created interdependent economies, while emerging economies had lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. While the United States was committed to working in global solidarity, the substance of the resolution remained dated, divisive and counterproductive.

18. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.3/Rev.1.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Moldova, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Palau, Republic of Korea, South Sudan, Tonga, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania.

Draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.3/Rev.1 was adopted by 116 votes to 48, with 7 abstentions.

19. **Ms. Zolcerová** (Slovakia), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) adopted in 1974 did not provide a contemporary framework for addressing the multiple challenges of the globalized world. The European Union was concerned that reverting to the concepts of the mid-1970s could send an inaccurate message about the ability of the United Nations to contribute to solving the world's current problems and risked marginalizing the role of the United Nations in global economic governance.

20. Moreover, the resolution continued to deal with substantive issues that were already covered in other General Assembly resolutions. The European Union attached great importance to the Second Committee delivering its full potential in view of the 2030 Agenda. It remained committed to engaging in good faith to achieve that end and would seek to avoid duplication of its work with other United Nations bodies and within the Committee.

21. In that regard, it was important for the work of the Committee to build on recent outcomes, including the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The debates and outcomes achieved in other relevant institutions, such as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the Group of 20, must also be considered. The European Union was ready to engage constructively in discussions aimed at improving and enhancing global economic governance with a view to a strong, coherent, inclusive and representative international architecture for sustainable development, while respecting the mandates of respective organizations. Multilateral solutions must be promoted to common problems, using the closest possible international cooperation to deliver on the landmark agreements reached in 2015, thereby promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Agenda item 59: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.35)

Draft resolution on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (A/C.2/71/L.35)

22. **The Chair** said that draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.35 contained no programme budget implications and that Turkey had joined the list of sponsors.

23. **Ms. Niyomthai** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group reiterated its unwavering and unequivocal support for the economic development efforts and aspirations of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan. That agenda item was indivisible and relevant to the work of the Committee, and the implementation of the draft resolution was important. The 2030 Agenda and other major outcome documents of the sustainable development framework offered hope for the betterment of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation. However, the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/71/86-E/2016/13) had revealed that the Palestinian and Syrian people would not enjoy the fruits of sustainable development until they had sovereignty over their natural resources. In the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, therefore, the international community must not forget the severe difficulties faced by countries and peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, and must strive to achieve the full realization of the right of self-determination.

24. **Mr. Mansour** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the ESCWA report (A/71/86-E/2016/13) was one-sided and based on selective and often unreliable data. In short, it was everything that a report of the United Nations should not be. Such reports, and the statements made in connection with the agenda item, formed another chapter in the saga of anti-Israel sentiment that had turned the United Nations into the Palestinians' private theatre of the absurd. Both the report and the draft resolution distorted the facts and undermined the Committee's credibility by ignoring the real factors that were impeding Palestinian development.

25. His country had fulfilled its obligations under the water agreement signed by both sides in 1995, whereas the Palestinians continually drilled unauthorized wells and allowed Palestinian sewage to drain into Israeli streams. Israel continued to supply the Gaza Strip with water even though it was under the control of the Hamas terrorist organization. However, the Palestinian Authority was obstructing water infrastructure improvements by refusing to sign the protocol to the water agreement or to provide estimates of its population and water needs. Without a change in Palestinian behaviour, a severe water crisis could be expected in the coming summer.

26. At a time when Israelis and Palestinians needed to rise above their political differences to confront the threats posed to both by climate change, the draft resolution only served to push the two sides further apart. It made no mention of the 2016 agreement waiving a significant portion of the Palestinian Authority's debt to Israel, the ongoing cooperation in the field of pest control or the efforts of Israel to combat the smuggling of hazardous waste. His delegation had called for a vote on the draft resolution, and urged any delegations that cared about the integrity of the Committee to vote against it.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.35.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia,

Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, South Sudan, United States.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Togo, Tonga, Vanuatu

Draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.35 was adopted by 155 votes to 8, with 10 abstentions.

27. **Ms. Zolcerová** (Slovakia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, as in the past, the European Union would support the draft resolution. However, the use of the term Palestine in the draft resolution could not be construed as recognition of the State of Palestine and was without prejudice to the individual position of Member States on that issue and on the validity of accession by Palestine to the conventions and treaties mentioned therein.

28. In addition, the adoption of the draft resolution was without prejudice to the results of the discussions on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee, in particular with regard to the addition of subjects to the agenda and the reports ensuring the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee's work.

29. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that in the case of the Palestinian question, there was a clear dividing line between absolute good and absolute evil, as was illustrated by the lopsided vote in favour of the draft resolution. However, he conceded that the draft resolution would change nothing on the ground. Israel, with the encouragement of certain other States would continue to flout international law by moving its citizens onto occupied land and building its racist separation wall.

30. What the representative of the occupying Power had said about cooperation on the water issue was a pack of lies. Israel stole the bulk of its water from the West Bank, and millions of cubic metres were also being stolen from Gaza. During the first four months of the occupation in 1967, Israel had issued no fewer than five military orders that gave it control over Palestinian water. The ESCWA report documented how the 2014 Gaza war had affected water supplies for up to 1 million people, and calculated the water consumption of Israelis on the West Bank at seven times that of Palestinians, leaving some Palestinians with as little as one fifth of the per capita daily amount of water recommended by the World Health Organization.

31. **Mr. Mansour** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that at a time when Israel and the entire world were fighting terrorism on all fronts, the issues of the environment and climate change could serve as a bridge to peace. However, the Palestinians were refusing to sign a protocol to the water agreement that would increase the supply of water to both the West Bank and Gaza. Israel was doing the best it could without Palestinian cooperation. The representative of the Palestinian Authority himself had conceded that 95 per cent of households in the West Bank were connected to running water. He called on the international community to pressure the Palestinian Authority to cooperate on an issue where the two sides had common ground.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.